

City of Corvallis



Frequently asked questions on the...

Transit Operations Fee

What is the fee?

The fee is a monthly charge to City of Corvallis utility customers to generate revenue to support Corvallis Transit System (CTS) operations. The money raised from this fee is dedicated to CTS and can not be used for any other purpose. This new revenue replaces property tax funds that supported transit operations. A portion of the fee also replaced transit fares, allowing riders after February 1, 2011, to get on any CTS or Beaver Bus without paying a fare.



Who pays the fee?

Corvallis utility customers—residences, businesses, and industry—on the monthly City Services bill.

How much is the fee?

As of February 1, 2012, the amount for single-family residential customers is \$3.73 per month, the amount for multi-family residential customers is \$2.58 per housing unit per month, and the amount for commercial and industrial customers is based on the type of business, and as a result, is different for each one.

How is it determined?

The new fee is calculated each January, using a trip generation methodology. A nationally recognized model, developed by the Institute of Traffic Engineers, provides an estimate for how much different categories of properties use a transportation system (“trip generation”). A “trip” is the one-way travel from a starting point to a destination. For example, going to work in the morning is one trip; coming home at night is one trip. The model estimates the average number of vehicle trips generated by a property based on the type of property it is. In the model, a single-family residence generates an average of 9.6 trips a day. Businesses, which have a greater impact on the transportation system from customers coming to the site, have a higher number of average trips than a single-family home. The number of average trips for non-residential properties is based on a number of factors; for example, the trips for schools is based on the number of students attending.

Will the fee go up in the future?

The City Council approved an annual review of the fee, which could result in an increase. The review will compare the Transit Operations Fee charge for a single-family residential customer with the federal government’s average price for a gallon of gasoline on the West Coast from February of the previous year to January of the current year. If the average gas price is higher, the fee will go up on February 1st of the current year; if the average gas price is lower, the fee will go down, but it will never fall below the base rate of \$2.75 per month for single-family residential customers.

Why is the fee on my water bill?

By putting the charges for multiple City services on one bill, the City is able to reduce the administrative costs of processing and printing invoices over what it would cost to have each charge on a separate bill.

How much revenue will the fee generate?

The fee generated over \$850,000 in the first year. About \$400,000 of this replaced the property tax revenue that had supported CTS in the past; the fee made the property tax revenue available for other property tax services, such as police, fire, library, parks and/or recreation.

Can I ride the Corvallis bus for free?

Yes, as of February 1, 2011, all CTS and Beaver Bus riders can get on the bus without paying a fare.

Do I have to be a Corvallis resident to ride for free?

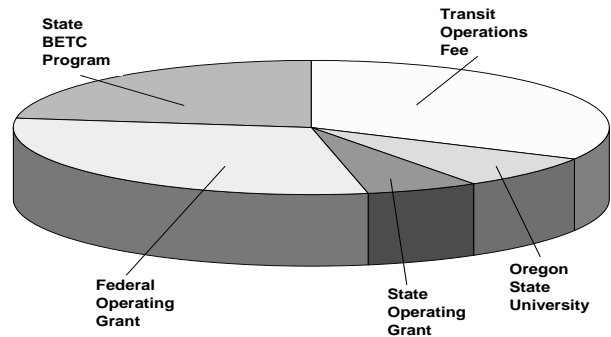
No, anyone can get on a CTS bus without paying a fare after February 1st.

How long is the free transit service going to last?

There is no end date at this time.

If I don't have to pay to ride, who is paying to provide the service?

Funding for CTS comes from a number of sources: State grants, federal grants, the transit operations fee, Oregon State University, and the State's Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) program.



Do I have to pay to ride the Philomath Connection, Linn-Benton Loop, and the 99 Express?

Yes, you have to pay to ride these other transit systems. (However, OSU currently has agreements with the Philomath Connection and Linn-Benton Loop that allow students, faculty, and staff to ride these two bus systems by simply showing their OSU ID.)

Since I have to pay to ride these other buses, but not CTS, how will transfers between the systems work?

Transfers from the other bus systems to CTS will be free. If you transfer from CTS to one of these other systems, you will be required to pay the appropriate fare when you board that bus.

If I get on CTS, can I transfer to the Philomath Connection for free?

No, you have to pay a fare to ride the Philomath Connection. Discounted passes and coupon books for the Philomath Connection are available at the Philomath City Hall and the Corvallis Utility Billing office.

If I get on the Philomath Connection, can I transfer to CTS for free?

Yes, all rides on CTS and the Beaver Bus are fareless.

Where can I buy a bus pass for the Philomath Connection or the Linn-Benton Loop?

Passes for these bus systems can be purchased at the Corvallis Utility Billing office, located at 500 SW Madison Avenue, the Philomath City Hall (for the Philomath Connection only) and the Albany City Hall (for the Linn-Benton Loop only).

If I have a CTS pass or coupon book that is good beyond February 1st, can I get a refund?

No, refunds were available only until March 31, 2011. The City made every effort to see that riders knew of the March 2011 deadline. CTS advertised the refund deadline in the newspaper, on our web site, on the government TV channel, and in ads on the buses and at the shelters at the Downtown Transit Center.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the City's web site, www.ci.corvallis.or.us under Sustainability Initiatives Funding
Call the Corvallis Public Works Department at 541-766-6916
Send an email to public.works@ci.corvallis.or.us.